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| Opinion Writing | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| **Introduce topic clearly** | Topic is clear and focused with an introduction that is inviting and unique; ‘hooks’ the reader with a strong sense of audience. | Topic is mostly clear, introduction is inviting; sense of audience is apparent. | Topic is somewhat clear, however little sense of audience. Introduction is stale. | Topic is vague, or not apparent. Communication of topic is confusing, no sense of audience. |
| **State an opinion supporting a point of view** | Writing states opinion with confidence and strong voice to convey point of view. | Writing states an opinion and point of view using voice. | Opinion is vague and lacks voice. | Writing contains no opinion to support a point of view. |
| **Organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support writer’s purpose** | Writing includes a strong beginning, middle, and end that groups ideas related to the writer’s purpose. | Writing has a beginning, middle, end; Ideas are mostly grouped together and developed. | Writing is brief with some organization. Ideas are not well developed. | Writing is disorganized and undeveloped. |
| **Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details** | Writing includes minimum of three reasons that are supported by facts and details. | Writing includes 2 reasons that are supported by facts and details. | Writing includes 1 reason with facts and details. | Writing has no facts or details to support reasons. |
| **Link opinions and reasons using words and phrases** | Transition words are used to link opinions and reasons in an effective and appropriate manner. | Transition words are used to link most opinions and reasons effectively. | Transition words are apparent in a few sentences; some are not clear and effective. | Transition words are not apparent. |
| **Provide a concluding statement related to the opinion presented** | Conclusion is focused, strong, and expresses confidently the opinion. | Conclusion is clear, yet lacks an element of confidence. | Conclusion is ineffective; does not relate to opinion. | Conclusion is not apparent. |

4th Writing Standard 1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.